

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

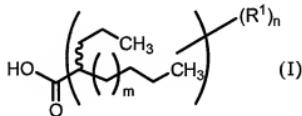
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented): A compound selected from the group consisting of (2R,7R)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, (2R,7S)-7-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid and (2R)-8-hydroxy-2-propyloctanoic acid, a salt thereof, or a prodrug thereof.

8. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 4—or—7, which is obtained by chemical synthesis.

9. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:
a compound represented by formula (I):



wherein

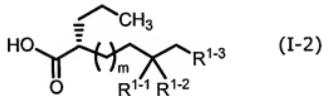
R^1 represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

$n$  represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and  
wherein two or more R<sup>1</sup>'s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,  
a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

R<sup>1-1</sup> and R<sup>1-2</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

R<sup>1-1</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-2</sup> to represent oxo,

R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

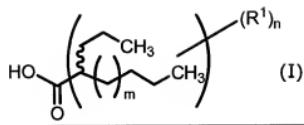
..... indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration; and

wherein, when R<sup>1-1</sup> is taken together with R<sup>1-2</sup> to represent oxo, R<sup>1-3</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable additive agent.

**10.-18. (canceled).**

**19. (currently amended):** A method for treating a neurodegenerative disease, which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I), depicted in claim 1, a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> represents hydroxy or oxo,

~~~~ indicates  $\alpha$ -configuration,  $\beta$ -configuration or a mixture of these in an arbitrary proportion,

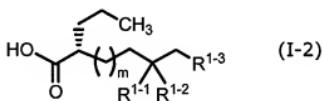
n represents an integer of 1 to 3, and

m represents an integer of 1 to 10; and

wherein two or more R¹'s are not bound to the same carbon atom other than the terminal carbon atom,

a salt thereof or a prodrug thereof,

in which said compound is a compound represented by formula (I-2):



wherein

R¹⁻¹ and R¹⁻² are each independently a hydrogen atom or hydroxy, or

R¹⁻¹ is taken together with R¹⁻² to represent oxo,

R¹⁻³ represents a hydrogen atom or hydroxy,

m represents an integer of 1 to 10, and

===== indicates α -configuration; and

wherein, when R¹⁻¹ is taken together with R¹⁻² to represent oxo, R¹⁻³ represents a hydrogen atom.

20.-21. (canceled).